

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information providing apparatus comprising:

~~a first authentication means for authenticating a first information processing unit;~~

~~a second authentication means for authenticating a second information processing~~

~~unit;~~

~~a reception control means for controlling the reception of a transmission mechanism~~

~~configured to receive a request message from a terminal, said request message identifies a~~

~~key server and a key associated with predetermined content; for data for said second~~

~~information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit; and~~

~~a controller configured to control whether to request said key from said key server~~

~~based on the request message, so that the key server releases the key for use by the terminal~~

~~when the controller makes the request~~

~~a communication control means for controlling the communication such that a~~

~~transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second~~

~~information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is~~

~~received from said second information processing unit; and~~

~~a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of said key to said first~~

~~information processing unit.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~first information processing unit~~ terminal is a portable device ~~and said second information processing unit is a key server.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ~~data~~predetermined content and said key are for use in making contents data available to the terminal.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information providing apparatus comprising:
a first authentication means for authenticating a first information processing unit;
a second authentication means for authenticating a second information processing
unit;
a reception control means for controlling the reception of a transmission request for
data for said second information processing unit and a key from said first information
processing unit;
a communication control means for controlling the communication such that a
transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second
information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is
received from said second information processing unit; and
a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of said key to said first
information processing unit~~The information providing apparatus according to claim 1,~~
wherein

said information providing apparatus functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 5 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 6 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said first information processing unit is a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 7 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said license management program has a server authentication program and a portable device authentication program.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): An information providing method comprising the steps of:

~~authenticating a first information processing unit; authenticating a second information processing unit;~~

~~controlling the reception of a transmission request for data for identifying said second information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit;~~

~~controlling the communication such that a transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is received from said second information processing unit; and~~

~~controlling the transmission of said key to said first information processing unit~~

receiving a request message from a terminal, said request message identifying a key server and a key associated with predetermined content;

controlling whether to request said key from said key server based on said request message; and

releasing the key from the key server for use by the terminal when the request is made in the controlling step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said ~~first information processing unit~~ terminal is a portable device ~~and said second information processing unit is a key server.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said ~~data~~ predetermined content and said key are for use in making contents data available to the terminal.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An information providing method comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information processing unit; authenticating a second information processing unit;

controlling the reception of a transmission request for data for identifying said second information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit;

controlling the communication such that a transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second information processing unit is sent to said second information processing unit and said key is received from said second information processing unit; and

controlling the transmission of said key to said first information processing unit~~The information providing method according to claim 8, wherein~~

said information providing apparatus functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 12 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 13 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said first information processing unit is a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 14 (Original): The information providing method according to claim 11, wherein said license management program has a server authentication program and a portable device authentication program.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium for storing a computer-readable program that when executed by a processor implements a method comprising the steps of:

~~authenticating a first information processing unit; authenticating a second information processing unit;~~

~~controlling the reception of a transmission request for data for identifying said second information processing unit and a key from said first information processing unit;~~

~~controlling the communication such that a transmission request for said key on the basis of said data for identifying said second information processing unit is sent to said~~

~~second information processing unit and said key is received from said second information processing unit; and~~

~~controlling the transmission of said key to said first information processing unit~~

receiving a request message from a terminal, said request message identifying a key server and a key associated with predetermined content;

controlling whether to request said key from said key server based on said request message; and

releasing the key from the key server for use by the terminal when the request is made in the controlling step.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:

~~an authentication means for authenticating a first information providing unit;~~

~~a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and~~

~~a reception control means for controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit~~

a transmission controller configured to control transmission of a transmission request to an information providing unit for data, said transmission request identifying a key server and a key associated with predetermined contents;

a reception controller configured to control reception of the key from the key server for use by a terminal to access said predetermined contents.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein ~~said first information providing unit is~~ the transmission request is sent to an authentication server.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said data and said key are for use in making contents data available for use in the terminal.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus comprising:
an authentication means for authenticating a first information providing unit;
a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of a transmission
request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information
providing unit that provides a key and said key; and
a reception control means for controlling the reception of said key provided and
transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing
unit. ~~The information processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein~~

said first information providing unit functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 20 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 21 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a personal computer and, if

said authentication server is unavailable, has a same licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 22 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a portable device and has a client licensed compliant module that executes cross-authentication in cooperation with said server licensed compliant module of said authentication server.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

~~authenticating a first information providing unit; controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and~~

~~controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit~~

controlling transmission of a transmission request to an information providing unit for data, said transmission request identifying a key server and a key associated with predetermined contents; and

controlling reception of the key from the key server for use by a terminal to access said predetermined contents.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said ~~first information providing unit is an authentication server and said second information providing unit is a key server~~ step of controlling transmission includes transmitting the transmission request to an authentication server.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 23, wherein said data and said key are for use in making contents data available to the terminal.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): An information processing method comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information providing unit; controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and

controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit~~The information processing method according to claim 23, wherein~~

said first information providing unit functions as an authentication server having a key management program and a license management program.

Claim 27 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 26, wherein said key management program and said license management program are included in a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 28 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a personal computer and, if said authentication server is unavailable, has a same licensed compliant module that executes generally the same processing as an ordinary licensed compliant module.

Claim 29 (Original): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein said information processing apparatus is constituted as a portable device and has a client licensed compliant module that executes cross-authentication in cooperation with said server licensed compliant module of said authentication server.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium for storing a computer-readable program that when executed by a processor implements a method comprising the steps of:

~~authenticating a first information providing unit;~~

~~controlling the transmission of a transmission request to said first information providing unit for data for identifying a second information providing unit that provides a key and said key; and~~

~~controlling the reception of said key provided and transmitted to said first information providing unit from said second information providing unit~~

controlling transmission of a transmission request to an information providing unit for data, said transmission request identifying a key server and a key associated with predetermined contents; and

controlling reception of the key from the key server for use by a terminal to access said predetermined contents.